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UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
International Geophysical Year 1957-58

April 14, 1958

Mr. Frederick T. Merrill  
Director, East-West Contacts Staff  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Merrill:

Reference is made to your letter P-EWC of March 3, 1958. Enclosed is a draft letter to V. V. Belousov, Vice President of the Soviet IGY Committee, asking his Committee's co-sponsorship for a proposed visit of Mr. John Sparkman to the Soviet Union for the purpose of taking gravity measurements.

As indicated in my letter of February 21 to Miss Ellen Gavri-sheff of your staff, our original request for advice in this matter did not contemplate reciprocal visits by Soviet scientists because information in hand at that time concerned only the possibility that Mr. Sparkman had been unilaterally invited to visit the Soviet Union. Apparently, the unilateral invitation did not materialize. By the present approach, there is no assurance that the question of reciprocity will be avoided. Our own experience, as well as information provided by your staff, would indicate that any acceptance of our proposed request by the Soviet IGY Committee will be accompanied by a reciprocal request.

The position of the Department of State with respect to the content and purpose of the enclosed letter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

James Henley Morgan, Head  
International Relations Section

Enclosure

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file